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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/787,485	02/26/2004	Simon Chang	N1085-00199 TSMC2003-04	7010
54657	7590	03/21/2006	EXAMINER ADAMS, GREGORY W	
DUANE MORRIS LLP IP DEPARTMENT (TSMC) 30 SOUTH 17TH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-4196			ART UNIT 3652	
PAPER NUMBER				

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/787,485	CHANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gregory W. Adams	3652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-15 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-15 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Feb. 17, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peiter (EP 1202325) (previously cited) in view of FIG. 3 (Applicant's Disclosed Prior Art).

With respect to claim 1, Peiter discloses an integrated material transport system comprising a first material transport subsystem 20, 21, second material transport subsystem 10, 11, a shared material transport port 10, and an integrated rail subsystem 10, 11 wherein a first subsystem transfers material within a production bay and between at least two production bays (Para. [0007]; Para. [0011]) and a second subsystem transfers material between two production bays. Further, Peiter discloses servicing a

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port 31 of a processing machine 30 used by both a first and second transport subsystems, and does not disclose a stocker. Cols. 1-2. Applicant's FIG. 3 teaches a stocker 304 serviced by both first and second transport subsystems such that during production wherein integrated circuits are passed among bays of production tools, processes and processes sequences, stockers for holding material in queue for processing. Applicant's Specification para. [0002-0003]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Peiter to add a stocker, as per the teachings of Applicants Prior Art, to store material in queue during processing.

With respect to claim 3, Peiter discloses a predetermined material stocker 31 is between a production bay 30 and a main corridor.

With respect to claim 4, Peiter discloses a second material transport subsystem 10, 11 is an interbay material transport subsystem. Para. [0039].

With respect to claim 5, Peiter discloses a second material transport subsystem 10, 11 is outside of a production bay and within a main corridor.

With respect to claim 6, Peiter discloses a material transport port 10 has an elongated opening.

With respect to claim 7, Peiter discloses a material transport port 10 is on a main corridor side.

With respect to claim 8, Peiter discloses a ceiling height is 3-5 meters.

With respect to claim 9, Peiter discloses an integrated rail subsystem 10, 11 has two rails 10, 20 at different heights.

With respect to claim 10, Peiter discloses an integrated material transport system comprising a first material transport subsystem 20, 21 having an over head transport module 21 traveling at a first height, second material transport subsystem 10, 11 having an over head shuttle 11 traveling at a second height, one material transfer port 31 used by a first transport subsystem 20, 21 and a second transport subsystem 10, 11, an integrated rail subsystem 10, 11 servicing both a first material transport subsystem 20, 21 and a second transport subsystem 10, 11. Further, Peiter discloses servicing a port 31 of a processing machine 30 used by both a first and second transport subsystems, and does not disclose a stocker. Cols. 1-2. Applicant's FIG. 3 teaches a stocker 304 serviced by both first and second transport subsystems such that during production wherein integrated circuits are passed among bays of production tools, processes and processes sequences, stockers for holding material in queue for processing. Applicant's Specification para. [0002-0003]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Peiter to add a stocker, as per the teachings of Applicants Prior Art, to store material in queue during processing.

With respect to claim 11, Peiter discloses a material transport port 10 has an elongated opening.

With respect to claim 12, Peiter discloses a material transport port 10 is on a main corridor side.

With respect to claim 13, Peiter discloses a ceiling height is 3-5 meters 103.

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With respect to claim 14, Peiter discloses an integrated rail subsystem 10, 11 has two rails 10, 20 at different heights.

With respect to claim 15, Peiter discloses a method for integrating intrabay and interbay material transport providing a first material transport system 20, 21, providing a second material transport system 10, 11, and providing a shared material transport port 10 and an integrated rail section 10, 11. Further, Peiter discloses servicing a port 31 of a processing machine 30 used by both a first and second transport subsystems, and does not disclose a stocker. Cols. 1-2. Applicant's FIG. 3 teaches a stocker 304 serviced by both first and second transport subsystems such that during production wherein integrated circuits are passed among bays of production tools, processes and processes sequences, stockers for holding material in queue for processing. Applicant's Specification para. [0002-0003]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Peiter to add a stocker, as per the teachings of Applicants Prior Art, to store material in queue during processing.

With respect to claim 17, Peiter discloses a predetermined material stocker 31 is between a production bay 30 and a main corridor.

With respect to claim 18, Peiter discloses a second material transport subsystem 10, 11 is an interbay material transport subsystem. Para. [0039].

With respect to claim 19, Peiter discloses a second material transport subsystem 10, 11 is outside of a production bay and within a main corridor.

With respect to claim 20, Peiter discloses a material transport port 10 is sized to accommodate a first material system and a second transport subsystem.

With respect to claim 21, Peiter discloses a material transport port 10 is on a main corridor side.

With respect to claim 22, Peiter discloses a ceiling height is 3-5 meters 103.

With respect to claim 23, Peiter discloses an integrated rail section 10, 11 has two rail subsystem 10, 20 at different heights.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed Feb. 17, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to transferring within a production bay or between production bays, the cited prior discloses an integrated rail system that combines interbay subsystem and intrabay subsystem (Para. [0011]) wherein "the interbay rail tracks are led into and completely through the bay area to enable the vehicle of the interbay transport configuration to bring their carrier load directly in front of the processing machine that is due to perform the next process step." Para. [0008]. Thus, the cited prior art discloses an interbay subsystem that may function as an intrabay subsystem and an intrabay subsystem that may function as an interbay system depending on where a cassette is required.

Conclusion


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory W. Adams whose telephone number is (571) 272-8101. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th., 8:00-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571) 272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GWA



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